

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Deleted matter is indicated by brackets; and 2) added matter is discussed in the remarks section.

1. (Original) An arrangement including in combination,
- a container for transporting wafer-shaped objects having container walls;
  - a container door fitted in said container and comprising two walls, spaced apart from and parallel to each other;
  - recesses worked into the container walls in the region of said container door which is fitted therein;
  - means for locking and unlocking said container door comprising locking elements provided within said container door between said two parallel walls and being displaceable into a moved-in end position and into a moved-out end position and, when moving out, penetrate into said recesses within the container walls,
  - every locking element being in the form of a projection from a plate which is directed parallel to the outwardly directed wall of said container door, wherein all plates share a common drive in form of a rotatable disk driven by a motor and acting in the locking and unlocking direction for connecting rods provided for displacing the plates, the plates being fixed in the moved-in end position and in the moved-out end position by said connecting rods;
  - means for providing that the penetration of the locking elements into said recesses

is effected along a curved path as a result of a movement of each locking element into a corresponding recess as well as in a direction normal thereto,

said means for providing a curved path further comprising structure to maintain and move every plate parallel to an outwardly directed wall of said two parallel walls of the container door by means of couplers, said couplers for every plate being parallel to each other and rotatably connected to said plate and also to said outwardly directed wall so that, as a result of the couplers, there is a predetermined distance between every plate and said outwardly directed wall in the moved-in state, which distance decreases during the outward movement until the locking element comes into contact with a contact surface in the recess against which the locking element is pressed under tension in its moved-out end position.

2. (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the locking elements are adjacent to one another.
3. (Original) The arrangement according to claim 2, wherein one end of each connecting rod is rotatably fitted to a plate, the other end being rotatably fitted opposite thereto at a disk so as to lie outside an axis thereof, and wherein the plates are fixed in the moved-out end position by rotating the disk beyond a dead center position.
4. (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein one end of each connecting rod is rotatably fitted to a plate, the other end being rotatably fitted opposite thereto at a disk so as to lie outside an axis thereof, and wherein the plates are fixed in the moved-out end position

by rotating the disk beyond a dead center position.

5. (Currently Amended) A transport [container]unit for wafer-shaped objects, the [container]unit comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a container for holding the objects, the container [having] comprising a plurality of container walls, the container walls having a plurality of recesses, and

\_\_\_\_\_ a container door fitted in said container and comprising two parallel door walls[,] spaced apart from each other[,] and a locking and unlocking arrangement positioned[ within the door and] between the two door walls, the locking and unlocking arrangement comprising a plurality of locking elements [moveable]movable between a moved-in end position[ state] and a moved-out end position[ state], each of said plurality of locking elements comprising a projection from a plate with a pair of opposed edges, each of said plurality of locking elements directed to one of said plurality of recesses in said container wall, each said plate pivotally connected to a common drive in the form of a rotatable disk by a connecting rod, each said plate fixed in the moved-in end position and the moved-out end position by one of said connecting rods, whereby in the moved-out [state] end position the locking elements penetrate into said recesses in the container walls, the locking and unlocking arrangement further comprising a plurality of parallel couplers[, the couplers each being] pivotally mounted to one of the door walls and to each of said plate edges such that each of said plates is parallel to the door walls, [and having an axis, each locking element is coupled to a coupler .] whereby the penetration of each of said locking elements into [a recess]one of said plurality of recesses is effected along a curved path.

6. (Amended) The transport [container]unit of claim 5 wherein [the locking and unlocking

arrangement further comprises a plate and] each locking element is a component part of the plate.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Amended) The transport [container] unit of claim 5 wherein [the] each said locking element is rotatably coupled to[ a coupling member] one of said couplers.

10. (Amended) The transport [container] unit of claim 5 wherein[ the locking and unlocking arrangement further comprises a rotatable disk with a plurality of displacing elements.] each of said plurality of displacing elements [having] has two ends with one end of each displacing element rotatably connecting to the rotatable disk and the other end coupled to the locking element.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Amended) A transport [container] unit for wafer-shaped objects, the transport [container] unit comprising a container and a door to close the container, the door comprising a pair of parallel, spaced apart door walls and a locking and unlocking arrangement positioned between the door walls, the locking and unlocking arrangement comprising:  
first and second plates, each of said first and second plates comprising a locking element

extending therefrom and first and second opposed edges, [a plurality]each of said [of]locking elements extendable out of the door to engage[ recesses] a recess in the container, at least one of said locking elements extending in [one]a first locking element direction and at least one other of said locking elements extending in[ the] a second locking element direction[ opposite direction] to engage the recesses in the container, the first locking element direction generally opposite to the second locking element direction;

\_\_\_\_\_ a rotatable disk and a plurality of connecting rods, [positioned in the door, the rotatable disk coupled to ]the rotatable disk in rotatable mechanical communication with each of the locking elements via the connecting rods[, the at least one locking element extending in one direction and the at least one locking element extending in the an opposite direction]; and

\_\_\_\_\_ [a plurality of couplers]first and second parallel couplers pivotally attached to each edge of each of said plates, [the ]each of said couplers having two ends[ with], one end of [one ]each of said couplers [coupler ]attached to and rotatable about[ an] a first coupler axis at one of the parallel walls and the other end of [said one coupler ]each of said couplers[ being] attached to and rotatable about[ an] a second coupler axis generally parallel to the first coupler axis and [at ]proximate[ the at least] one of said locking elements,[ one locking element] said first and second couplers attached to the first plate axially extending in[ one] a first coupler direction and said first and second couplers attached to said second plate axially extending in a second coupler direction different from the first coupler direction[, with one end of another coupler attached to and rotatable about an axis at the one of the parallel walls and the other end of said another coupler being attached to and rotatable about an axis at the one locking element extending in the opposite direction, whereby ] such that the locking elements remain generally parallel to said door walls and are [extend ]displaced outwardly in a curved path.

13. (Amended) The transport [container] unit of claim 12 wherein [ the rotatable disk is coupled to the at least one locking element extending in one direction and the at least one locking element extending in the opposite direction by a pair of plates positioned in the door, one plate extending between the rotatable central disk and the at least one locking element extending in one direction, the other plate extending between the rotatable disk and the at least one locking element extending in the opposite direction,] each of the plates is coupled to the rotatable disk such that rotation of the disk moves the plates inwardly and outwardly with respect to the rotating disk.

14. (Amended) The transport [container] unit of claim 13 wherein [each plate is coupled to the rotatable disk by a] the connecting rod[ extending] extends between the [disc]disk and the plate.

15. (Amended) The transport [container] unit of claim 13[ wherein each plate has two couplers attached thereto and] wherein each plate and the two couplers and the one of the parallel walls of the door form a parallelogram.

16. (Amended) A sealable and transportable [container] unit for wafer-shaped objects, the transportable [container] unit comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a container including a first wall and a second wall[, ] and one or more recesses in each of the first wall and second wall; and

\_\_\_\_\_ a door with a seal between the door and the container, the door comprising a pair of

parallel door walls[,] and an arrangement for locking and unlocking the door disposed within the door between the pair of door walls.

wherein the arrangement for locking and unlocking the door comprises a plurality of plates with lateral edges, a shared drive, and a plurality of parallel couplers pivotally attached to each plate lateral edge, each plate comprising a locking element projecting from the plate [locking elements], the shared drive comprising a disk rotatable by a motor and rotatably mechanically connected to each of said plurality of plates by a connecting rod, each of said plurality of locking elements extendable out of the door by [a ]the shared drive for penetration into one of a plurality of recesses in the container, each of said plurality of couplers further pivotally attached to one of said door walls such that each of said plurality of locking elements remains parallel to one of said door walls as each of said plurality of locking elements is displaced along a curved path between a moved-in end position and a moved-out end position in which the locking element is disposed in and presses against a surface of one of said recesses[, and wherein each of the locking elements follows a curved path].

17. (Amended) The [apparatus ]transportable unit of claim 16, wherein[ the latching assembly further comprises a plurality of couplers.] each of said couplers is [coupler ]rotatably connected to one of the walls[ with ] along a first axis parallel to the wall and each of said couplers is further rotatably connected at the locking elements with a second[ an] axis parallel to the first axis, the couplers providing the curved path of the locking element.

18. (Amended) A container door fitted in [said ]a container and having a pair of parallel door walls and a locking and unlocking arrangement disposed between the pair of door walls, the

locking and unlocking arrangement comprising a plurality of projections and a disk rotatable by a motor and in mechanical communication with each of said plurality of projections, each of said plurality of projections extending from a plate having opposed edges and held operably parallel to the door walls by a plurality of parallel couplers, each of said plurality of couplers pivotally attached to one of said door walls and further pivotally attached proximate each of said plate opposed edges, the projections each [moveable]movable in a curved path between a moved-in state and a moved-out state by a cooperation between the disk and couplers, whereby in the moved-out state the locking elements penetrate into said recesses in the container walls, wherein the projections remain substantially parallel to said door walls], the locking and unlocking arrangement further comprising a plurality of couplers, the couplers each being rotatably mounted to one of the door walls, each projection having a coupler coupled thereto whereby the penetration of each of said projections into a recess is effected along a curved path].

19. (Amended) A transport [container] unit for wafer-shaped objects, the transport [container] unit comprising a container and a door to sealably close the container, the door comprising a pair of parallel door walls and a locking and unlocking arrangement positioned between the door walls, the locking and unlocking arrangement comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of locking elements, each said locking element projecting from a plate and extendable out of the door to engage [recesses]a recess in the container and pivotally affixed to one of the door walls by a plurality of parallel couplers such that each of said plurality of locking elements is functionally parallel to the door walls, at least one of said plurality of locking elements extending in one direction and at least one other of said plurality of locking elements extending in [the ]an opposite direction with respect to the door;



a plurality of connecting rods; and  
a rotatable disk positioned in the door, the rotatable disk coupled to [the at least one  
locking element]said plurality of plates by the connecting rods so as to simultaneously  
[extending ]extend at least one of said locking elements in one direction and[ the at least one  
locking element] another of said plurality of locking elements [extending ]in [the ]an opposite  
direction, each said locking element extended along a curved path[; and]  
[a connecting rod connected to the rotatable disk, ]the connecting [rod]rods and disk  
having [an ]a beyond dead center position for fixing the locking elements in a moved-in end  
position or a moved-out end position.

Please add claims 20-24.

20. (New) The transport unit of claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of locking elements is  
generally coplanar to one of said plates.

21. (New) The transport unit of claim 12, wherein each said locking element extending from one  
of said first and second plates is generally coplanar therewith.

22. (New) The unit of claim 16, wherein each said locking element projecting from one of said  
plates is generally coplanar therewith.

23. (New) The container door of claim 18, wherein each of said plurality of projections  
extending from a plate is generally coplanar therewith.

24. (New) The transport unit of claim 19, wherein each of said locking elements projecting from one of said plates is generally coplanar therewith.

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